

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00651 01 OF 02 081053Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

IO-10 SAB-01 OMB-01 SAM-01 AID-05 EB-07 EUR-12 /099 W

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P 080921Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2266

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY SANAA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF

SUBJECT: QADHAFI'S REACTION TO SADAT'S "TREASON"

1. SUMMARY. QADHAFI HAS LAUNCHED AN ANTI-SADAT DRIVE OF UNPRECEDENTED FURY AND SCOPE SINCE SALZBURG. HE IS RAISING THE CRY OF TREASON; CALLING ON OTHER ARAB LEADERS TO DISASSOCIATE THEMSELVES FROM SADAT'S "RECOGNITION" OF ISRAEL; STEPPING UP ANTI-SADAT PROPAGANDA; AND GATHERING TOGETHER IN TRIPOLI PALESTINIAN CHIEFTAINS LIKE GEORGE HABBASH AND AHMED JABRIL. HIS MEDIA ARE CALLING FOR SADAT'S ASSASSINATION.
END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 00651 01 OF 02 081053Z

2. SINCE SALZBURG, LIBYAN PRESS HAS BEEN FILLED WITH ATTACKS ON SADAT OF EXCEPTIONAL VIRULENCE WHICH LEAN HEAVILY ON THE TIME-HONORED ARAB TACTIC OF CALLING ONE'S OPPONENT A TRAITOR. AN EXCERPT FROM A LONG JUNE 6 EDITORIAL ADDRESSED TO SADAT GIVES THE FLAVOR OF THE ATTACKS. IT IS A SCARCELY-VEILED CALL FOR SADAT'S ASSASSINATION: "IN EGYPT AND OTHER ARAB PARTS DOZENS OF CITIZENS CONDEMNED FOR SPYING FOR THE ENEMY HAVE BEEN EXECUTED. THESE WERE NOT WAYWARD POLITICIANS, BUT SIMPLE SOULS WHO WEAKENED BEFORE TEMPTATION AND FELL INTO SERVING THE ENEMY AND BETRAYING THE NATION. BUT YOU (I.E. SADAT)--"POLITICS IS YOUR PROFESSION", AS YOUR MEDIA SAY. YOU ARE THE "HERO OF THE CROSSING", THE "CONQUEROR OF THE CANAL", THE "PIOUS LEADER" WHO DETONATED THE MAY 15 REVOLUTION, AND BUILT A "STATE OF ORGANIZATIONS" AND "SOVEREIGNTY OF THE LAW." "SURELY A MAN OF THESE QUALITIES, WHO COMMITS THE GREAT TREASON AGAINST HIS NATION AND FATHERLAND, CANNOT BE CONDEMNED TO LESS A PENALTY THAN THAT GIVEN TO SPIES WHO WERE EXECUTED FOR PASSING INFORMATION OF BENEFIT TO THE ENEMY. AFTER ALL, THEY DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF THE ENEMY TO USURP ARAB LANDS, ADMITTING BY THIS RECOGNITION THE ILLEGITIMATE CHARACTER OF THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION..."

3. THIS CAMPAIGN WAS INAUGURATED BY QADHAFI ON JUNE 4, WHEN HE CONVENED SPECIAL SESSION OF RCC TO STUDY THE "GREAT ARAB NATIONAL TREASON" REPRESENTED BY SADAT'S "RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL, HIS COMPLETE DISREGARD FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND THEIR RIGHT TO LIBERATE THEIR TERRITORIES, AND HIS AGREEMENT TO ALLOW ISRAELI SHIPS AND GOODS TO PASS THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL". IT WAS ANNOUNCED AFTER THE MEETING THAT THE RCC WOULD BE SENDING DELEGATIONS TO ARAB AND ISLAMCI COUNTRIES TO LOBBY AGAINST SADAT, AND THAT THE RCC HAD ALREADY SENT MESSAGES TO ARAB LEADERS ON URGING THEM TO "DEFINE THEIR POSITION". THE NEXT DAY, THE UNDERSECRETARY OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY CALLED IN ALL ARAB AMBASSADORS TO MAKE A SIMILAR PRESENTATION TO THEM AND TO REINFORCE THE RCC MESSAGE TO THEIR CHIEFS OF STATE. SO FAR, RESPONSES TO THE RCC MESSAGE HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THE LIBYAN PRESS FROM SYRIA, TUNISIA, AND BAHRAIN. PRESIDENT AL-ASAD IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "SYRIA HAS NOT, AND WILL NOT* CONSIDER RECOGNIZING THE ZIONIST ENEMY AS RECOGNITION OF THE ENEMY IS NOT THE RIGHT OF ANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 TRIPOL 00651 01 OF 02 081053Z

CHIEF OF STATE OR LEADERSHIP". SIMILARLY, PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA IS ALLEGED TO HAVE RESPONDED THAT TUNISIA HAD NOT ENTRUSTED SADAT WITH NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY IN ITS NAME, ALTHOUGH "IT APPEARS THAT SOME CONFRONTATION STATES HAD". TUNISIA "DID NOT ACCEPT THE PROPOSED SOLUTION ON THE BASIS OF PRE-1967 BOUNDARIES, AND WOULD ACCEPT NO LESS THAN THE DECISION OF 1947, EVEN THOUGH THIS DECISION WAS UNJUST IN ITSELF AND DID A WRONG TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE". THE RULER OF BAHRAIN IS QUOTED AS

HAVING TOLD THE LIBYAN REPRESENTATIVE WHO GAVE HIM QADHAFI'S
MESSAGE THAT "BAHRAIN WILL NOT RECOGNIZE THE ZIONIST ENTITY
IN ANY BOUNDARIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DECISIONS OF
ARAB SUMMITS AND THE CHARTER OF THE ARAB LEAGUE".

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00651 02 OF 02 081101Z

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 TRIPOLI 0651

4. PROPAGANDA AND DIPLOMACY ARE ONLY ONE SIDE
OF QADHAFI'S STRATEGY, AS WAS EVIDENT JUNE 4 WITH THE ARRIVAL IN
TRIPOLI OF GEORGE HABBASH OF THE PFLP. QADHAFI HAS ALWAYS
BEEN SUSPICIOUS OF HABBASH'S MARXISM, BUT HE MAY NOW BE
WILLING TO SUBMERGE HIS DIFFERENCE WITH THE PFLP LEADER.
LIBYAN TELEVISION BROADCAST A PANEL DISCUSSION JUNE 6
IN WHICH HABBASH PARTICIPATED, TOGETHER WITH FELLOW REJECTIONISTS

ABD AL-FATTAH GHANI, MEMBER OF THE PFLP/GC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,
AND GENERAL MOHAMMED GERAH, HEAD OF THE "ARABISM CLUB",
A LIBYAN FRONT WHICH RECENTLY HELPED ORGANIZE A SEMINAR FOR
PALESTINIAN INTELLECTUALS IN TRIPOLI. HABBASH DENOUNCED
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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 00651 02 OF 02 081101Z

SADAT'S TREACHERY FOR "RECOGNIZING" ISRAEL WITHIN 1967
BORDERS, ADDING THAT SADAT WAS NOT THE ONLY GUILTY ONE.
PLO WAS ITSELF PROVIDING COVER FOR HIM, IN CONNIVANCE WITH
THE REGIMES IN SYRIA, EGYPT, AND SAUDI ARABIA. HE HAD
HOWEVER, "GREAT HOPES" THAT "NATIONALIST REGIMES" LIKE LIBYA
WOULD GIVE THE PFLP AID IN ITS FIGHT AGAINST TRAITORS.
ABD AL-FATTAH GHANI OF THE PFLP/GC DECLARED THAT HE "AGREED
WITH DR. GEORGE'S STAND", BUT DID NOT SINGLE OUT THE PLO
FOR CRITICISM, WHILE FOR HIS PART, GENERAL GERAH CALLED ON
SYRIA NOT TO FALL IN WITH EGYPTIAN PLOTS, AND WARNED THAT
IN ADDITION TO SADAT'S TREASON, THERE WERE "SILENT PLOTS"
AFOOT.

5. A SECOND REJECTIONIST CHIEFTAIN, AHMAD JABRIL OF THE
PFLP/GC, ARRIVED JUNE 6 IN TRIPOLI FOR TALKS WITH QADHAFI.
JABRIL IS QADHAFI'S FAVORITE TERRORIST, AND UNDOUBTEDLY
RECEIVES LIBYAN FINANCIAL SUPPORT. IF HABBASH IS TO GET HIS
SHARE, HE MAY HAVE TO AGREE TO COMPOSE HIS DIFFERENCE WITH
JABRIL. THE PDY PRIME MINISTER IS ALSO DUE HERE FOR TALKS
JUNE 8.

6. TO PROVIDE A CHORUS FOR THESE DEADLY SERIOUS GOINGS ON,
ANTI-SADAT DEMONSTRATIONS WERE ORGANIZED IN LIBYAN CITIES
AND TOWNS JUNE 7. THE TRIPOLI MARCH WAS THE BEST ATTENDED
EVENT OF ITS KIND IN LIBYA SINCE THE 1973 UNITY MARCH ON
CAIRO, WITH FIVE TO TEN THOUSAND MARCHERS PARTICIPATING,
INCLUDING MANY CONSTRUCTION WORKERS FROM UPPER EGYPT WHO
HAD BEEN GIVEN THE MORNING OFF BY THEIR FOREMEN FOR THE
OCCASION. THEY CARRIED THE USUAL BANNERS, AND SHOUTED SLOGANS
LIKE "THE CANAL IS ARAB, ZIONISM SHALL NOT PASS THROUGH IT"
ON THEIR ROUTE TO RCC HEADQUARTERS, WHERE HABBASH, WHO IS A
VERY GOOD SPEAKER, HARANGUED THEM. HE CALLED ON THE PLO TO
TAKE A PUBLIC STAND FOR OR AGAINST SADAT'S "PLOT", AND DREW
THE INEVITABLE PARALLEL BETWEEN VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, AND
PALESTINE.
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